

Welcome Aboard.

Welcome to Task Force 2 of the Operations Group at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). Command Sergeant Major Timothy S. Green, of the Operations Group, has slated you for duty with this task force. As such, you are about to join an outstanding organization with the important mission of assisting in the maintenance of a trained and ready Army. Let me take the opportunity to inform you about Fort Polk and your new assignment. Our Operations Group Commander is Colonel Eric F. Smith.

The JRTC, as one of the Army's Combat Training Centers, has in its charter the requirement to provide the toughest, most realistic training for the Army's contingency forces (primarily light, airborne, air assault, and ranger infantry units) and their supporting elements, including combined arms and service units, as well as joint elements. Task Force 2, comprised of over 70 highly experienced, talented, and motivated NCOs and officers, is one of two maneuver Observer/ Controller (O/C) teams that assist in the training of battalion task forces that participate in the rotational FTXs.

Duty as an O/C is challenging and professionally rewarding. No where else in the Army do you have the opportunity to conduct in-depth, on-the-ground study of our profession, and also observe the theory being put into practice by our peers under the most challenging of conditions. With an environment such as this, you can develop great insight into the art and science of leading men in battle. As an O/C you will be expected to know and thoroughly understand our doctrine, and through the After-Action Reviews (AARs) you conduct, be able to assist the unit in assessing the level of success achieved in applying that doctrine. I recommend you prepare yourself by having a solid working knowledge of FM 7-8 and FM 7-10 prior to your arrival.

Though we deploy for half of each of 10 months a year, we set our conditions generally more favorable and comfortable than "client" units. Typically, everyone gets a 12-24 hour re-fit every 3-4 days.

So life is pretty good with quite a fair amount of time for family, schooling, and hobbies, etc.

Fort Polk is a modern Army installation with an active, vibrant military community. Over the past four years a major effort has gone into refurbishing the installation. All facilities and quarters are well maintained. Generally, the waiting period for on post-family quarters is not excessive. The post staff and supporting agencies are focused on serving the needs of units, soldiers, and families.

I urge you to take advantage of the following automated/web site resources available to assist with PCS. Most all installation ACS offices have computers specifically for this purpose.

- For worldwide web relocation information and Welcome Packet go to www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites
- For a “to do” timeline/checklist go to www.homafair.com– then “relocation wizard” –
- For the **JRTC** Home Page go to www.jrtc-polk.army.mil
- For the **Task Force 2** Home Page go to www.jrtc-polk.army.mil/OPS/TF2/index.htm

Once again, welcome to your new assignment. I trust that you will find it both challenging and rewarding. I look forward to working with you.

I have included the following phone numbers, which will be useful to you and your family:

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| a. Consolidated In-Processing | /531-7258 |
| b. Child Development Center | /531-1954/1955 |
| c. Exceptional Family Member Program | /531-1940/1941 |
| d. Family Housing | /531-4541 |
| e. Legal Assistance | /531-2112/2580 |
| f. Magnolia House (Billeting) | /531-2941 |

We are anticipating your arrival and again we would like to welcome you to the JRTC family. Feel free to call me DSN 863-9815, comm (337) 531-9815. Or the TAFF at DSN 863-0348/4282, comm (337) 531-0348/4282.

//Signed//
MARK F. MATERA
SGM, USA
Bn Sr NCO O/C, TF 2